

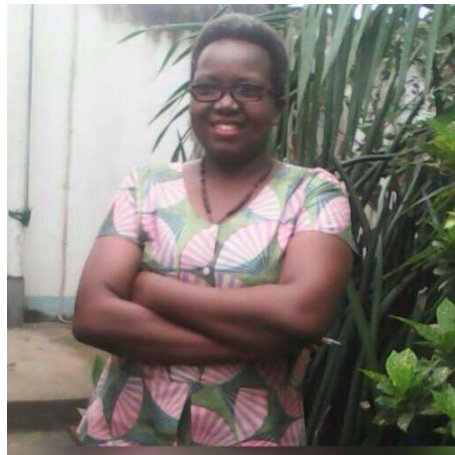
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 95 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 29 January - 4 February 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 4 February 2018, Iteka has documented at least 474 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Centre*

**CNDD-FDD** : *National Council for the Defense of Democracy*

**CNI** : *National Identity Card*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**FRODEBU** : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

**PAIVA** : *Support to Intensification and Agricultural Recovery Project*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 3 persons were killed all found dead, 7 tortured and 6 arbitrarily arrested.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth and policemen are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

The phenomenon of corpses found across the country is reported in this bulletin.

This bulletin reports cases of killings and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

Arbitrary arrests, forced contributions and intimidation linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution is reported in this bulletin

The bulletin rejects impunity of crimes that is granted to pro CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in different crimes enjoy impunity from public complicity.

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***I.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS***

##### **A body found in Butanganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On 2 February 2018, at about 1 o'clock, on Nkango hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, 35-year-old farmer Richard Bibonimana, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was killed strangled by unidentified people. The marks on his neck suggest he was killed with a rope. The perpetrators and reasons of the murder are unknown.

##### **A body found in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On February 2, 2018, on Rutoke sub-hill, Matongo hill and commune, Kayanza province, Vianney's body, nicknamed Kagame, ex-FAB, was found at his home where he lived alone. The corpse was decomposing. He was buried in the presence of the administration officials and the police. The causes of his death are not yet known.

##### **A body found in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

On February 2, 2018, a body of a woman named Spès Ngendakumana, aged 40, was found on Teme hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province. On-site sources indicate that the victim had left his home on January 30, 2018 and was stabbed as his body was injured in the head. The same sources say that Serges Habonimana, Spès Ngendakumana's husband was arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

## ***1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

### **A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

On February 2, 2018, on Rusave hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Jean Paul Niyonkuru was beaten up by Imbonerakure, including Jean, Barazira, Rwamo and another nicknamed Kidasha. He was accused of being a member of Amizero y'abarundi. He is being treated at CDS Gasenyi in the same commune.

### **Five people tortured in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Iteka League on 29 January 2018 indicates that on 28 January 2018, on Bucana hill, Gitobe commune, Kirundo province, 5 FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, including Rugema, Masase, Goreth, Fengu and two others were arrested and then tortured by Imbonerakure headed by Rubunda, communal council member in Gitobe. According to sources on site, they were accused of teaching to vote against the referendum and were taken, roped, to other border hills of Baziro and Gihinga in search of other FLN members of Agathon Rwasa's wing. They were treated at CDS Bucana where the cost of drugs was doubled, saying that the drugs available are for CNDDFDD members and not for opponents. The same sources add that these five people complained to the administrator and to the OPJ but told them that they will be received and heard after joining CNDD-FDD party.

### **A person tortured in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On January 31, 2018, on Buzirasazi hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, Patrice Bigirimana alias Makobora, farmer and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten by young Imbonerakure led by Rubuku, accusing him of campaigning against "YES" on the next referendum for the change of the constitution.

## ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

### **Three people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On 30 January 2018, around midnight on Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a group of 10 policemen commanded by Commissioner Zabulon Mfuranzima broke through Anicet Bitariho's household fence who had been released from Gitega central prison. They smashed the doors and invaded the house, taking all the occupants and beat them up, ordering them to show where Anicet had gone. As Anicet had not spent the night at home, they arrested Serges and Alexis, his servants and a shopkeeper who lived there. They took them to Karuzi province police station.

### **A person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On the afternoon of January 30, 2018, Hadji Ndorimana, pro-Rwasa FNL youth chair in Busoni commune, Kirundo province, was arrested by Imbonerakure. According to local sources, Ndorimana, teacher at ECOFO Muhenduzi, was heading to work when he met his school principal. The latter alerted Imbonerakure accusing Ndorimana of wanting to kill him. Ndorimana refused to join CNDD-FDD party by force. He was taken to Busoni commune cell, add our sources on site.

### **A person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On 30 January 2018, in Busoni commune, Kirundo province, Jean Baptiste Nkundabahizi, FRODEBU Nyakuri party representative in Murore and Nyagisozi areas, was arrested by the police under the orders of the MP Jean Baptiste Nzigamasabo alias Gihaha, a native of that province. Sources on site indicate that Nkundabahizi is accused of sensitizing the population to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum. The same sources add that Jean Baptiste Nkundabahizi was taken to Busoni commune cell. The inhabitants of this locality are demanding the unconditional release of this person, who claims that he is a victim of his political affiliation.

## ***1.4. PEOPLE ABDUCTED OR REPORTED MISSING AND THEN FOUND***

### **A person reported missing in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province<sup>1</sup>**

As of March 30, 2017, at around 5:00 pm, Adrien Nkurikiye from Karusi province and working as agronomist at PAIVA, Rutegama, was arrested by SNR in Rutegama Muramvya province. He was jailed at Rutegama before he was taken on 31 March 2017 to an unknown destination.

### **A person abducted and then reported missing in Muramvya commune and province<sup>2</sup>**

Georges Ngendakuriyo, director of Muramvya Paramedic School, was abducted and reported missing since November 15, 2016. According to sources in his family, Georges Ngendakuriyo left his home in the morning heading to work and had said he was afraid for his safety. Since that day, his family has not known the destination and the fate that the kidnappers have reserved for the victim

## ***II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### ***II.2. SECURITY FACTS***

#### **Discovery of a weapon in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

On January 29, 2018, on Muyange hill and zone, Nyabihanga commune, a Kalashnikov rifle was seized. According to sources on site, the rifle was stolen from a police officer at Mbogora police

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<sup>1</sup> The information received on February 5, 2018 indicates that Adrien Nkurikiye, who was reported missing on March 30, 2017, was found jailed at Mpimba Central Prison in Bujumbura.

<sup>2</sup> Georges Ngendakuriyo, abducted and then reported missing as of November 15, 2016 was found. He is at work

post the same day. According to the same sources, after an inquiry to a robber named Isaac from Muhaganya hill, border to Muyange, he quickly confessed that he had stolen the rifle. So, he showed where he had hidden it. After the weapon was found, the alleged thief was taken to Nyabihanga cell for investigation.

#### **A wounded person in Rutana province**

On January 28, 2018, around 1:00 am, on Kinzanza hill and zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, the family of Elias Nibigira and Caterine Nyandwi were attacked by unidentified people and wounded his wife Caterine Nyandwi with a knife on the head and her husband managed to escape. According to sources on site, this victim was quickly taken to Kinzanza CDS. Two bags of beans were stolen during this attack.

#### **Grenade attack in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province**

On January 30, 2018, Ndabashinze was the victim of a grenade attack at his home in Magara center, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, the attack did not do human damage except for part of the gate damaged by the fragments. The authors and reason of this attack are not known.

### ***II.3. INTIMIDATION ACTS***

#### **Forced contributions in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province**

On 1 February 2018, in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, a sum of 500 bif was collected by force from each household to fund the referendum for the change of the constitution. On the evening of the same day, the head of Imbonerakure of the same commune, Jerome Manimfasha, threatened those who did not contribute that they will have serious problems because they have already shown that they will vote for "NO".

#### **Administrative frauds in Gitaramuka Commune, Karuzi Province**

On January 29, 2018, in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, at the launch of CNI distribution campaign, the communal administrator Jeanette Ningabiye and Gitaramuka zone head and at the same time communal representative of CNDD-FDD party, Claver Nkeshimana alias Ruhombo, ordered Tharcice Ndayisaba, registrar, to mention 16 years for the age of youth instead of 14 and 15 years. According to sources on site, the communal administrator and the zone head also ordered the population never to go to the communal office, to pass rather to the zone heads who travel with plastic bags filled with CNI. They also meant that there are recognized photographers on each hill and photos taken elsewhere are not accepted. The same sources add that all these photographers are Imbonerakure.

### **Suspicious meeting of Imbonerakure in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

Information received on February 29, 2018 indicates that on January 27, 2018, in Ndava zone and commune, Mwaro province, a meeting of Imbonerakure was held by CNDD-FDD party chair. At the end of the meeting, Tama, leader of Imbonerakure in Kayokwe commune arrived and started another meeting, but this time, only the Hutu were selected to partake, according to sources on site. The Tutsi were not invited to attend this second meeting. The Tutsi did not understand why they were not invited to this second meeting.

### **Forced contributions in Kirundo province**

Information received on February 29, 2018 indicates that in all the hills and communes of Kirundo province, all Imbonerakure are collecting beans or 1000 bif for those who do not have beans saying that this bean is meant for the strategic stock of the province. According to local sources, this collection is done each growing season but the population does not have the right to ask for the location of the stock. Another contribution of 1000 bif for each person and even children from the age of 18 is required for contribution to the 2020 elections.

### **Speech of intimidation in Kirundo commune and province**

On 1 February, 2018, Miburo Jean Claude, new administrator of Kirundo commune made a speech in the commune before more than 250 couples who had just regularized their weddings. According to sources on site, he indicated that whoever will not vote for "YES" in the referendum will be tracked as well as all his family and that he will no longer be worthy of being Burundian citizen and that he will be sent back to Rwanda to join the Mujeri.

### **Night searches in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On January 28, 2018, residents of Kibago, Rubimba and Mbizi hills denounce searches and night patrols conducted by Imbonerakure militia youth. According to sources on site, the latter regularly carries out searches, and patrols and torture people. The most recent case is that of the night of January 25, 2018 when Tanu and Nihorimbere, two Imbonerakure of Kibago hill carried out a search at Karenzo's home, UPRONA party member of Charles Nditije's wing. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure said they came looking for weapons owned by his son known as Maroha.

This old man was seriously beaten after this search by these young Imbonerakure before warning him that he will be executed if he tries to file a complaint. His health is in critical condition.

The residents of this locality deplore that these Imbonerakure do all this without being worried by anyone. They accuse some elected hill officials to support these Imbonerakure instead of ensuring the safety of all citizens. The victim's son lives in hiding.



### **Intimidation meeting in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On January 29, 2018, a meeting was held for Mutakura neighborhood residents by Felix Nsabimana, head of Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Two points were on the agenda namely to raise awareness of the population to vote for "YES" to the forthcoming referendum for the change of the constitution. On this point, he said that whoever will dare voting for "NO" will be sorted out of the population of this quarter as rotten beans are sort from good beans. Regarding the assessment of the security situation, he recalled that banditry is exceeding the limits and that henceforth, any thief who will be caught will be instantly killed.

### **A man abused in Rutana province**

On February 3, 2018, at about 10:00 am, in Gitaba, Rutana commune and province, Bede Nyandwi, governor of this province, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was abused by young people of the ruling party Imbonerakure on the roadblock they erected on Rutana-Gitega road. His driver ran over the roadblock and these young people wanted to threaten the governor. According to sources on site, seeing this, his guards shot in the air and the situation was restored.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

Human rights violations and allegations of violations following the deteriorating political context since the start of President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term challenge continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Killings and arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted to CNDD-FDD regime opponents are reported.

Intimidation linked to the referendum for the change of the constitution of the Republic, committed by administration officials and Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD is a source of threats to the population.